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ABSTRACT

This study is part of an ongoing research program concerned with the linkages between women's status and fertility. Among the various dimensions of women's status, education deserves special attention, since it largely conditions the quality of women's lives and is highly susceptible to improvement through policy intervention. Although women's education should be promoted primarily on human rights and social justice grounds, it is widely recognized as one of the most promising catalysts of sustained fertility decline. Knowledge on the casual linkages between education and fertility can hence serve as a valuable policy instrument in the context of development planning. This report is a follow-up to an earlier United Nations study in the late 1980s and updates existing knowledge on the direct and indirect linkages between women's education and fertility. The contents of this study include: (1) Introduction; (2) "Data and Methodology"; (3) "Women's Education: Levels and Trends"; (4) "Education and Fertility: Theoretical Links"; (5) "Education and Fertility: Empirical Evidence"; and (6) Conclusions. Tables and figures accompany the presentation of data. (EH)

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